



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Artist Ken Swinson Demonstrates Monotype Printmaking at Kentucky Artisan Center

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, Oct. 5, Ken Swinson, of Washington, Ky., will demonstrate monotype printmaking from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Swinson came to Kentucky on vacation and liked it so much he left Virginia and moved here in 2000. Swinson has no formal art training other than a few classes, and much of his knowledge has been learned from books. After starting out in printmaking in 1995, he then discovered clay. He set up a pottery studio in Augusta, in 2000, where he worked until an injury curtailed his clay career. He then began painting – working in watercolors, acrylics, oils and pastels.

“Kentucky is my inspiration – its landscape and culture and its folk art traditions inspire the work I am doing,” Swinson said.

Swinson’s work is a fusion of his personal style, and his paintings joyfully depict his experiences – whether riding his bicycle, hiking in the mountains or running a marathon. Traveling throughout the state, Swinson paints directly from the landscape in front of him. He often combines mediums, starting out with a sketch, adding washes of ink or acrylic paint, and then adding pastel or colored pencil.

Swinson will demonstrate monotype printmaking – a one-of-a-kind print image that is drawn onto a plate or flat surface with ink or paint and then printed onto paper in a single pass through the press. The image on the plate is lifted off onto the paper for an original, one-of-a-kind print. Monotypes are prized because of this one-of-a-kind status and also for their unique textural qualities.

Prints by Swinson are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center’s exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Celebrating 10 years in 2013, the center currently features works by more than 650 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display are, “Capturing the Art of Sport: Works by Kentucky Artisans,” through Feb. 22, 2014, and lobby exhibits, “The Founding of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea” and “Highlights of the First 10 Years,” through Nov. 17. For more information about the center’s events call 859-985-5448, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center, or go to the center’s website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos, left to right: Ken Swinson demonstrates monotype prints at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea; “The Standoff” charcoal drawing by Ken Swinson; Ken Swinson creates a monotype image on glass